



The Common Fund

Transformative Research to Address Health Disparities and Advance Health Equity

Common Fund Concept Discussion

Same Storm, Different Boats



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Artist: J.W. Carmichael, 1852. Shown in David Williams' lecture: "Science of Racism," Dec. 2020

Structural Problems



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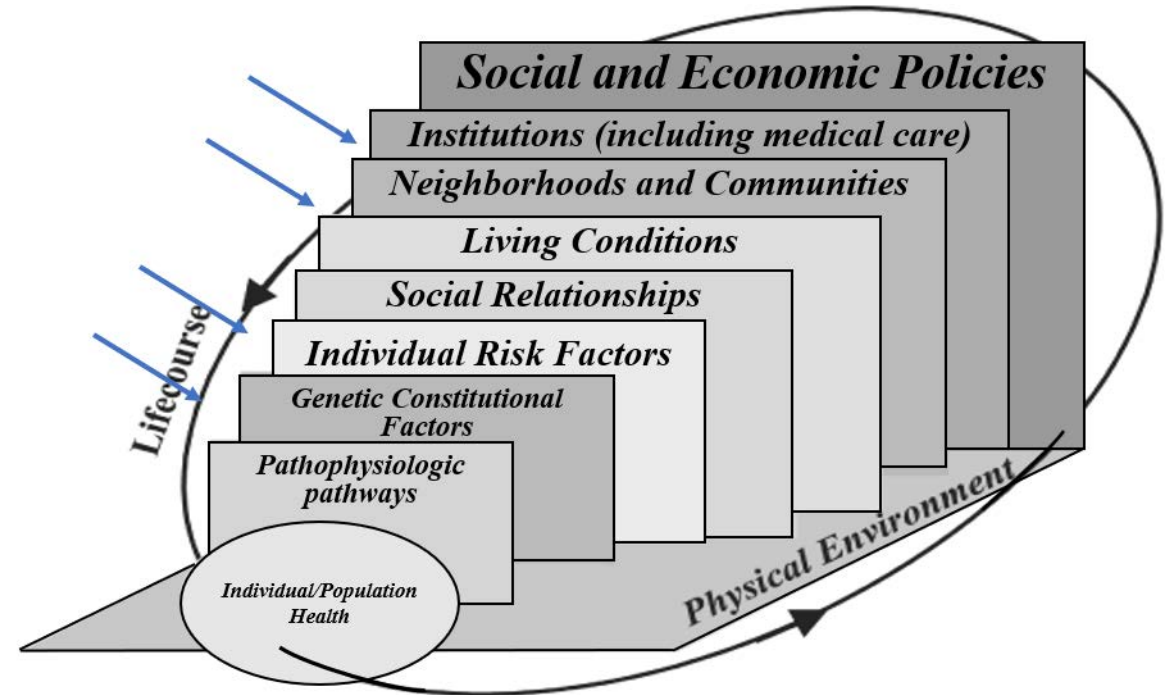
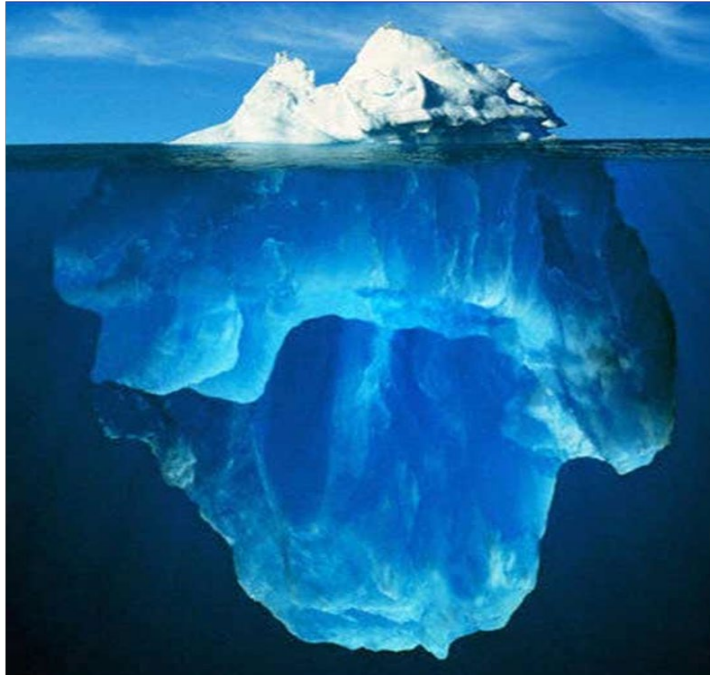


Figure 1 - Multilevel Model of Disease Causation.

IOM. *Promoting Health: Intervention Strategies from Social and Behavioral Research*. Washington, D.C.: National Academies Press. 2004. (Reprinted with permission in Kaplan GA., 2004. *Epid Rev*)

Original slide from Dr. Pamela Thornton, NIH/NIDDK

A multilevel, social-ecological model of disease causation can help us understand and address these pernicious patterns

Developing a Comprehensive Strategy



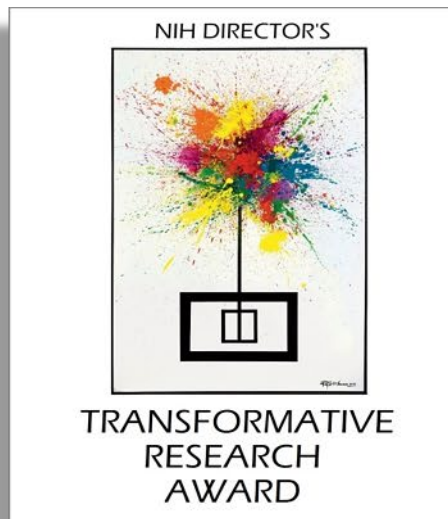
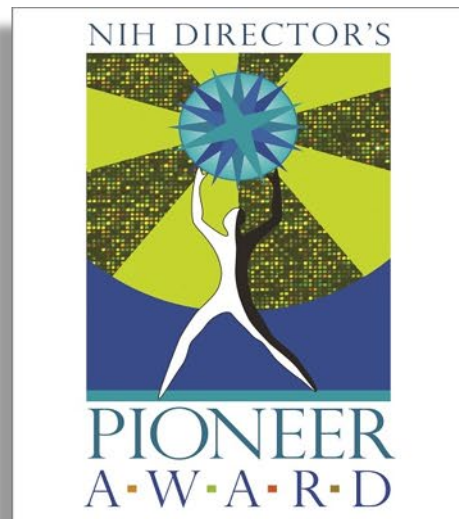
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- Increasing support from all NIH Institutes and Centers for long term, sustained research
- NIH Common Fund as a shorter term source of support to bolster innovation, solve challenges, and address emergent opportunities in areas of trans-NIH interest
 - **High Risk/High Reward projects to drive transformation, new ideas, new approaches**
 - Coordinated programs involving multidisciplinary teams working together toward defined goals that can be met within 10 years

High-Risk, High-Reward Research Program



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- Foster scientific leaps
- No preliminary data or detailed experimental plan required
- Any topic within the broad mission of NIH is welcome (“investigator-initiated”)
- Awards limited to 5 years
- Formal evaluations of this program have shown that these initiatives consistently support research that is exceptionally innovative and which has higher impact than traditional R01s; ACD review in 2018 encouraged continued support and expansion to include a clinically focused initiative

Innovations in Health Disparities Research



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- Support **collaborative** investigative teams or **individual** scientists
- Research projects focused on **developing, implementing, or disseminating** innovative interventions (including prevention studies) that address health disparities
- **Observational** component may be necessary for some projects, but each project is expected to include an **intervention**
- **Transformative**, projects must have the potential to lead to major improvements in health through the development or dissemination of highly innovative interventions

Transformative Health Disparities Research



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Concept Clearance: Two Funding Opportunities

- **Transformative Research to Address Health Disparities and Advance Health Equity**
- **Transformative Research to Address Health Disparities and Advance Health Equity at Minority Serving Institutions**
 - **Objectives:**
 - To foster the development, testing, and dissemination of innovative interventions focused on elimination of health disparities broadly and in high priority areas
 - To increase the competitiveness of investigators and the research base dedicated to Health Disparities Research at Minority Serving Institutions

Funds Available and Anticipated Number of Awards: \$60M over 5 years; 20 awards

Award Project Period: 5 years

Council Action: Vote to clear the concept for these FOAs